

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13-16, and 19-21 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and 19 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 12, 17, and 18 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claim 21 is sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action indicates that "[c]laims 1, 4, 12, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vallencourt, U.S. Patent #6,121,836." (Office Action § 1.)

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, 12, 17, and 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Regarding claims 19-20, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants have amended claim 19 to include all of the limitations of claim 17. Vallencourt does not teach or suggest, among other features, "selecting a subcomponent, from a plurality of subcomponents within the component, to process said offset voltage" as recited in amended claim 19. Claim 20 remains dependent from claim 19. New claim

21 depends from claim 19 and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 18, which has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn for claims 19-20 and that these claims, along with new claim 21, be passed to allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that "[c]laims 2, 3, and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." (Office Action § 2.) Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, and 13 to include all of the features of, respectively, claims 1, 1, and 12. Claims 14-16 remain dependent from claim 13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

The Office Action also indicates that "[c]laims 5-11 are allowed." (Office Action § 2.)

Conclusion

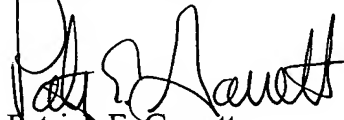
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be

withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Patrick E. Garrett
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,987

Date: 5/12/03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600